

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 17 and 21-32 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1-5, 9, 13, 14, and 19, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein;

a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein and is movable relative to the first stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction; and

a supplying roller that supplies a sheet stacked in the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion,

wherein the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves upstream in the sheet supplying direction, and the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction.

first stacking means stacked with sheets and including a first stacking portion receiving component force of the gravity in a sheet supplying direction from the sheets;

second stacking means installable in a detachable/attachable manner from and to said first stacking means on an upper side in the sheet stacking direction of said first stacking portion; and

separating/supplying means used in common to said first stacking means and said second stacking means, for separating and supplying the stacked sheets,

wherein said second stacking means includes a base member for installing in said first stacking means, and a second stacking portion movably incorporated into said base member;

wherein the second stacking portion is so constructed as to be possible of advancing and retreating substantially in parallel with the sheet supplying direction; and

wherein in a retreat position where said second stacking portion retreats upstream in the sheet supplying direction, the sheet can be supplied from said first stacking portion; and, in a possible-of-supplying position where said second stacking portion advances downstream in the sheet supplying direction, the sheet can be supplied from said second stacking portion:

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said second stacking portion moves downstream is in a position possible of supplying from said second stacking portion, said second stacking means portion is locked so that said second stacking means portion can not be released from said first stacking means portion, and

when said second stacking means portion moves upstream is in a state of releasing from said first stacking means, said second stacking portion is detachable/attachable detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion of said second stacking means is locked so that said second stacking portion is unable to advance to the possible-of-supplying position.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion includes sheet supplying route blocking means capable of abutting on and separating from an end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the

supplying direction so as to block a sheet supplying route to said ~~separating/supplying means~~
supplying roller from said second stacking portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said sheet supplying route blocking means abuts on the end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when in the retreat position, separates from the end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when in the possible-of-supplying position, and opens the sheet supplying route to said ~~separating/supplying means~~
supplying roller from said second stacking portion when the sheet on said second stacking portion is supplied by said supplying roller ~~separating/supplying means~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when in the possible-of-supplying position, an abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means, which abuts on the end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, separates from an abutting portion of said first stacking portion, which abuts on the end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, and

when said ~~separating/supplying means~~ supplying roller supplies the sheet on said second stacking portion, an operation of said sheet supplying route blocking means is regulated by a regulating portion provided on said first stacking portion, thereby opening the sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

6. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said second stacking portion moves to the retreat position from the possible-of-supplying position, said second stacking portion is set substantially parallel with the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion and is thereafter moved upstream in the sheet supplying direction.

7. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means, which abuts on the end portion of the sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, includes guide means for guiding respectively upper and lower sides, in the sheet stacking direction, of the sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when in the retreat position, towards the inside of the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

8. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said guide means is configured in a shape protruding on the upstream side at least in the sheet supplying direction at the upper and lower portions, in the sheet stacking direction, of the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said base member of said second stacking means portion includes cover means for covering the surface of the sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when in the retreat position, and

said cover means serves as regulating means for regulating the upper side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction within an abutting range on the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

10. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover means separates from said second stacking portion when in the possible-of-supplying position.

11. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second stacking portion includes regulating means for regulating the lower side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction, and

said regulating means is provided in the vicinity of said sheet supplying route blocking means and is overlapped with said guide means of said sheet supplying route blocking means in the sheet supplying direction.

12. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a final limit forward portion of said second stacking portion on the downstream side in the sheet supplying direction, is provided with a protruded portion of which angular and ridged portions are rounded and of which a surface is smoothed.

13. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein said first stacking means includes~~ further comprising a sheet type discriminating sensor

for discriminating a type of the sheet stacked in ~~between types of the sheets supplied from said~~ first stacking portion ~~and from~~ or said second stacking portion, and a tray position detecting sensor for detecting a position of said second stacking portion, and wherein

the sheet supplied is identified based on a ~~from a result of the~~ discrimination result by said ~~sheet type~~ discriminating sensor and a ~~result of the detection~~ result by said tray position detecting sensor.

14. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said base member of said second stacking ~~means~~ portion is provided with an index at a portion in which the end portion of the sheet is positioned when stacking the sheet on said first stacking portion.

15. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the index is a line indicating the end portion of the sheet.

16. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the indexes are the line indicating the end portion of the sheet and a character indicating a size of the sheet.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion is provided with a cover member that opens and closes when taking the sheet in and out and a sub cover member interlocking with the opening/closing of said cover member, on the upstream side of said second stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction.

19. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording on a sheet by recording means, comprising;

a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein;

a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein and is movable relative to the first stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction; and

a supplying roller that supplies a sheet stacked in the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion,

wherein the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves upstream in the sheet supplying direction, and the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction; and

a recording unit for recording on the supplied sheets.

first stacking means stacked with sheets and including a first stacking portion receiving component force of the gravity in a sheet supplying direction from the sheets;

second stacking means installable in a detachable/attachable manner from and to said first stacking means on an upper side in the sheet stacking direction of said first stacking portion; and

~~separating/supplying means used in common to said first stacking means and said second stacking means, for separating and supplying the stacked sheets;~~

~~wherein said second stacking means includes a base member for installing in said first stacking means, and a second stacking portion movably incorporated into said base member;~~

~~————— wherein the second stacking portion is so constructed as to be possible of advancing and retreating substantially in parallel with the sheet supplying direction and;~~

~~wherein in a retreat position where said second stacking portion retreats upstream in the sheet supplying direction, the sheet can be supplied from said first stacking portion; and, in a possible-of-supplying position where said second stacking portion advances downstream in the sheet supplying direction, the sheet can be supplied from said second stacking portion.~~

20. (Original) A recording apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said recording means is of an inkjet type for recording by ejecting liquid droplets out of a nozzle.

21-32. (Cancelled)